

Hawaiian Gazette

EST MODUS IN REBUS.

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THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND THE TREATY.

Mr. C. W. Ashford has made some positive statements in a news paper communication, concerning the proposed treaty, and his connection therewith, and throws out some dark and mysterious hints about "inside history" which when made public, will "astound" the country.

Let us have these details right away. There is no time like the present. If there is any mystery festering in the Attorney-General's brain which affects the public welfare, out with it and let us know the worst.

Meanwhile we have reason to believe that the statements made by Mr. Ashford are about as reliable as other similar statements with which the Elele and Ka Leo have lately been saturated, and in due course we propose to publish the "facts" concerning this subject.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL PLEADS GUILTY.

In last week's issue we published a statement of facts which amounted to an indictment of the Attorney-General. The indictment contained three counts, viz.:

1st. That the Attorney-General, differing with the other members of the Cabinet upon matters of principle and Cabinet policy, refused to either acquiesce in the opinion of the majority or to withdraw from the Cabinet; but contrary to all precedent and the principles of constitutional government, remaining in office, attempted, and is now attempting, to control the policy of the Government and to block the public business.

2d. That the Attorney-General had tried, and is now trying, to force a relative, his brother, into the command of the military, when he is so thoroughly distrusted that the other members of the Cabinet had twice unanimously refused to appoint him to that position, they having the legal authority to so refuse.

3d. That the Supreme Court, having formally rendered an opinion, at the request of the Cabinet, in accordance with the constitutional provision authorizing such course, the Attorney-General deliberately, and with malice aforethought, advised the King to disregard the advice of the majority of the Cabinet and the Supreme Court.

The Attorney-General replied to this indictment in a two-column communication to the Bulletin.

The reply contains some bad language, several sneers, quite a number of insinuations, and a column of pathetic devotion to the country which he proposes to rescue from the traitorous designs of his colleagues; but he nowhere denies or refutes the charges made against him in the indictment, but on the contrary distinctly admits them and pleads "guilty" to all three counts.

The principles involved in the action of the Attorney-General are far more serious to this country than the ultimate result of the colonelcy question, or even of the treaty, closely as the future prosperity of the country may be involved in the latter question.

Whatever may have been the opinions or differences heretofore, all parties, the Cabinet and the King, have always abided by the opinion of the Supreme Court; and for the first time we now see the official, constitutional opinion of that body contemptuously ignored, and the Attorney-General of the Kingdom deliberately advising the King to refuse to act in accordance with such advice.

The Attorney-General has admitted, over his own signature, that he has done this thing. Out of his own mouth he stands condemned.

There is nothing so essential to the continued independent control of our own affairs as that foreign governments be assured that the

Courts of the Kingdom render just and equitable decisions, and that their official opinions be recognized by the executive. Unless this is to be the case, anarchy will be the inevitable result.

The Attorney-General well deserves the severest censure, and impeachment by the Legislature, for the unconstitutional and unprecedented course which, for personal reasons he is following, regardless of law and the public interests.

THE BULLETIN ON MINORITY RULE.

A late article of the Bulletin on the above topic is remarkable chiefly as a tissue of misrepresentation or bare faced falsehoods from the first word to the last. It is a desperate attempt to justify the arbitrary and revolutionary course of the Attorney-General, on the pretence that the majority of the voters are behind him.

This position is at once irrelevant and untruthful. Even if the majority of the voters did approve the course of the Attorney-General (and who is mad enough to believe that they do?) that would be no justification for his illegal and revolutionary conduct, unless indeed the Bulletin thinks the times demand another revolution. In the second place, the proposition is as false and absurd as it is irrelevant. Where did the Bulletin get its idea "that the majority of the voters are behind Mr. C. W. Ashford?" That well informed journal cannot possibly be ignorant that the Treaty with reference to which the Attorney-General is resisting the majority of the Cabinet does not contain any article at which criticism has been aimed either before the election, or since. Unless the Bulletin is ignorant of this fact, its statement must stand before the public as a wilful misrepresentation.

The case with regard to the Colonelcy is equally clear. Does the Bulletin really think that a majority of the electors of the country desire to continue the incumbency of Col. V. V. Ashford? If so what are the evidences upon which this opinion is based? Or does the Bulletin think that the officers of the Rifles are a majority of the electors of the country? Probably it does, for it draws the logical inference that a decision of the majority of the Cabinet contrary to that of a majority of the officers of the Rifles is minority rule.

The rhetorical devices by which the Attorney-General and his newly found and newly inspired journalistic friends endeavor to palliate his outrageous conduct, and conceal the real issues in the case, will prove entirely futile. The Attorney-General is welcome to entertain any opinion of the Supreme Judges which he sees fit, but this does not license him to advise the King to defy the Court, and when he does so advise, he is guilty of a gross abuse of his office, an abuse which it is equally disgraceful to perpetrate or defend.

The Attorney-General's letter in Wednesday's Bulletin we are glad to observe is not written in any acrimonious strain. But the point in issue is still dodged. Mr. Castle's letter makes the point that, with constitutional parliamentary government the Cabinet must be responsible to the Legislature, and this demands unity in the Cabinet. Just here English precedents are in point, and they are that the dissenting member withdraws or is requested to resign, unless indeed the points of difference are merely trivial. As to the matter of impeachment it has never been suggested, except by Mr. Ashford, that it is for differing with the Cabinet. If there be any cause for that, it is solely because the Attorney-General advised the King to disregard the opinion of the Supreme Court which appears to have been an unconstitutional thing. As for the demand made for statutes, constitutional provisions, etc., by logic in the Bulletin, it is easy to reply; there are none unless the protection against removing a Minister by the King in the constitution, be such. It is not necessary that there should be such. The logical position if we are to have constitutional government is, that the Cabinet ought to represent the majority in the Legislature and that there should be Cabinet unanimity.

THE PRESENT CRISIS.

Under the title "much ado about nothing," the Bulletin gives the public to understand that the present crisis is a mere tempest in a teapot, an accidental divergence of view between Cabinet ministers, and nothing more.

The public decline to take this view. Not because they are alarmists, but because they happen to know that it does not correspond with the facts.

No one, except the Attorney-General and his journalistic mouth-piece, the Bulletin, has ever imagined that the public were unduly excited over a mere difference of opinion between Mr. Ashford and his colleagues. No one else has ever thought that the community or any part of it denounces Mr. Ashford because he differs from Mr. Thurston. No one has ever called the Attorney-General a "revolutionist" for any such reason.

The Attorney-General's opinions are his own, and so far as the public is concerned, he is welcome to them. It is his acts, to which the public take exception, not to his opinions. Does the Bulletin deny that the Attorney-General deliberately advises the King to persist in a course which the Supreme Court has declared unconstitutional? Does the Bulletin contend that such advice is constitutional? These are the points involved—and they are so clear that the "school boy" who figures in the Attorney-General's favorite metaphor might easily explain them to the Attorney-General himself, if even the school boy did not know that it is Mr. Ashford's "patriotism" and not his stupidity which prevents him from seeing the point.

"Differences of political belief either in the Cabinet or in the community" constitute no justification of the employment of extra constitutional means for their settlement, and we believe such is the sentiment of the bulk of this community."

This remark which we quote from Thursday's Bulletin expresses the whole truth of the matter, and just what we are contending for. If Mr. Ashford thinks he is right let him trust to the Legislature to justify and not persist in his unconstitutional defiance of the Supreme Court.

The articles of the Attorney-General, editorial and epistolary, are simply an attempt to bewilder and confound the public, and distract from the real issues involved in the present crisis.

The merits of the Colonelcy and Treaty questions are in no way involved. People have simply to consider whether the Constitution and laws are to be violated and the decisions of the Supreme Court treated with contempt.

The Attorney-General does defy the Supreme Court, the Constitution and the Laws. He has written long articles containing a vast deal of matter foreign to the issue, with a number of victimisms of varying excellence, but he has not denied anywhere in these articles that he has advised the King to act contrary to the Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court. On the contrary he expressly admits that he has done so. As long as these facts remain unchallenged, rhetorical discussion of extraneous issues is out of place.

A disastrous explosion occurred March 27th in the Chicago Sugar Refinery Company's plant at Taylor and Beach streets, Chicago. Three laborers are known to have been killed and sixteen other men injured. Three workmen are missing at a late hour. The explosion occurred in the starch drying-room, and is supposed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion. A similar explosion occurred a year ago, resulting in a fatal injury to one man.

The latest report states that twenty-one observatories are now engaged in the international undertaking of photographing the entire heavens. Each observatory will have to take about seven hundred photographs in the zone assigned to it, and it is hoped to finish the work in three or four years.

In anticipation of the passage of the Republican Tariff bill, tin-plate mills are being erected in Pittsburgh and at the West, so as to be all ready to begin manufacturing as soon as the bill becomes a law.

BRITISH POLITICS.

Balfour's Land Bill will Wreck the Ministry Unless Amended - Gladstone's Shrewdness.

A New York Times special cable from London, March 29, says: Ireland continues to monopolize what visible activity there is in British politics, and, despite a slight reverse in the bye-election up in the Duke of Argyle's borough, the trend of events is obviously toward the Gladstonians.

Another Unionist has come back into the ranks. This time it is Lord Ribblesdale, who is a young peer of considerable influence in the Lords. I learn that in a few weeks there will be a much more formidable secession of Unionist members in the Commons than has yet occurred, led by Caine and Courtney. It is due to the knowledge of this that all talk of dissolution has suddenly died away.

The present mood of the Ministry is to hang on until the last possible moment. A lot of Tories threaten now to vote against Balfour's Irish Land bill, which is really an imitation of the purchase measure that Mr. Gladstone unwisely linked with his Home Rule bill in 1886.

The only difference is that it involves thirty-three millions instead of fifty millions. The Liberals oppose it now on the ground that any such employment of English money would be a waste so long as the policy of coercion is kept up, because it would settle nothing in Ireland, and would help nobody but the Irish landlord. Discussion on the measure has hardly taken shape yet, but already there are possibilities that the Government will be beaten unless they accept numerous vital amendments.

The chances of this are much increased by the resumption of wantonly brutal evictions in Donegal and a concurrent outbreak of grotesque idiocy among Irish judges and resident magistrates.

England, however, gets along very well, despite the fact that the Queen is in the south of France, the Prince of Wales in Germany and the Premier away in the Riviera.

This is said to be something that has never happened before in English history, at least since parliamentary government was invented, but business is proceeding as usual and the stock market is even firmer than before.

NEWS FROM MICRONESIA.

Rev. J. J. Forbes, of Montreal, Canada, who went down on the Morning Star on her last voyage to take charge of the station on Ponape, died of dysentery, on Kusaie, October 29th. He was sick three weeks. Mrs. Forbes was ill also for a few days, but had recovered health and strength again. Miss Little was doing well in the school, and gaining in avoirdupois also. Miss Smith was not very much improved by her trip on the Star. The Star, after doing the work in the Gilbert Islands, went from Kusaie to Ruk, doing the work to the westward in the Eastern Caroline Islands and returning to Kusaie, from which island she will come back to Honolulu, passing through the Marshall Islands. Dr. Pease will not make the tour himself this year. The two Hawaiian missionaries and their wives remained on Kusaie, while the Star went west. Rev. Mr. Mahoe went on to Ruk. He had injured his withered arm by falling on the deck, but was recovering again from the accident. Capt. Worth is coming up from Ruk on the Star to go to the States for a schooner for the Mortlock Islands. Rev. Mr. Walkup took passage on the trading schooner H. W. Almy, and arrived at San Francisco March 30th. He hopes to get a steam launch for his work in the Gilbert Islands. On Ponape Rev. Mr. Doane was in usual health, as also were Miss Fletcher and Mrs. Cole. Dr. Pease and wife, on Kusaie, were quite tired from so much care of the sick ones at their house.

R. M. S. Alameda.

The R. M. S. Alameda, Capt. H.G. Morse, arrived Tuesday evening from San Francisco after a smart run of 6 days 7 hours 32 minutes. Left San Francisco Wednesday, April 9th at 3:45 p. m., being detained four days waiting for the English mails. First fifty hours had N.W. winds, thence S.E. and S.W. winds. On the 12th at 1 p. m. passed a bark steering S.W. and on the 15th at 11 a. m., a four-masted schooner steering S. W. The Alameda brought 39 cabin and 11 steerage passengers for this port and has 68 passengers in transit for the Colonies.

Prince Bismarck, it is said, is disappointed and chagrined at his son's failure to display any especial genius for political affairs.

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